

# THE Portobello REPORTER

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The independent voice of Portobello Your Community Newspaper  
produced by local people since 1980.

## 'PITZ' FIGHT GOES ON

OVER 150 people packed Portobello Town Hall on 15th November in a heated meeting to oppose the City of Edinburgh Council's proposed sale of the Powerleague 5-a-side and Tumbles site for residential and commercial development.

The only community consultation on the proposal was prompted by a request by Portobello Community Council and Portobello Amenity Society, under the Community Empowerment Act, and people are also angry about inadequate consultation and lack of information.

Council estates officer Graeme McGartland gave an update on the sale process. He said the council would not necessarily take the highest bid, but would hope to accommodate the wishes of the public, and a new Tumbles would be built on the site. He conceded that the council had not gone about things in the right way and that "additional consultation should have taken place".

The council would receive around two-thirds of any sale price, which would go toward the redevelopment of Meadowbank Sports Centre, and Powerleague the balance. Local resident James Lewis asked why the firm would receive money for giving up a lease which should run until 2088, but which it no longer wants. Mr McGartland replied that the council feared the firm would otherwise just pay the annual rent of £20,000 and leave the site empty. This prompted remarks about whether the council could be trusted with the sale.

The case against the sale was put first by Mike Livesley of Save Porty 5s, who said the pitches are well used and should be retained, and stressed the health and social benefits of football. Tom Black of Action Porty said the sale process should be stopped and a place-making exercise carried out with the community, to determine what it wants on the site. Robbie Wood of Street Soccer said the pitches and building were well-used by its clients and made a plea for them to be retained.



Photo courtesy of Street Soccer

The charity provides personal development opportunities for socially disadvantaged groups through football.

Local resident Joan Anderson was loudly applauded when she called out: "We have to fight for everything in Portobello. We were assured that this site would stay recreational".

Graeme McGartland indicated that councillors could still halt the sale, and Cllr Mary Campbell urged everyone to contact those on the Finance Committee, who have the power to make that decision, before it meets on 23rd January.

As was suggested at the end of the meeting, and almost unanimously agreed in an exit vote, Save Porty 5s and Action Porty will work together to seek community and councillor support to: halt the current commercial-led sale process and run a genuinely community-led and in-depth consultation process, with buy in from the Council, that starts with what the community needs, and not a developer-led consultation process that starts from a bid the Council has already accepted.

They ask everyone interested to email: [westactionporty@gmail.com](mailto:westactionporty@gmail.com) to be put on their mailing list.

## CAPACITY AUDIENCES AT BOOK FESTIVAL

THE ninth Portobello Book Festival, which took place from 6th to 8th October, was another huge success for the organisers, with capacity audiences at nearly all the 20 events. Subjects covered ranged from fiction and science fiction to history, sport, culture, writing from life and the very topical fake news.

Two sessions with a local history theme were very popular: "Lost Edinburgh", a photographic tour of the past, and the launch of *Footsteps in the Sand* a collection of articles on events, places and people taken from *The Portobello Reporter*. A disturbing session on Scotland and the slave trade drew a particularly large audience. Satellite events were held for residents at Queen's Bay Lodge care home, and for the pupils at Brunstane, St John's and Towerbank primary schools.

As ever, all the contributors gave their time free and tickets were also free.

## CHRISTMAS TREE LITE

IN an effort to save the planet and money this Christmas, the council have decorated six trees outside the Town Hall and nearby shops with white LED lights instead of installing a cut and dressed Christmas tree. In addition, lighting column features will decorate the same stretch of Portobello High Street.

The city's culture convenor Donald Wilson said: "Through moving towards adorning natural, living trees with lights, we're able to be far gentler on the planet while spreading the festive cheer much further this year."



Photo by Andrew Myline

A full moon added to the spectacle for the crowds on Portobello beach this bonfire night.

## ACTION PORTY CROWDFUNDER SUCCESS RAISES MUCH NEEDED FUNDS

THE Crowdfunder organised by Action Porty successfully raised the £20,000 needed to work towards re-opening Bellfield.

Emma Griffiths and Angela Thomas, the part-time Development Managers, have been working on a costed and sequenced plan of works needed to repair the building and make it safe for community use. Work needed includes new fire alarms, better fire escape routes, the identification and if necessary removal of asbestos and some repairs to the clock tower. They are also investigating how best to

improve the catering facilities.

Recently volunteers have worked hard to improve the grounds around the building.

The aim is to open Bellfield fully for use by the community in June 2018. The income received over the following two years will allow the building and grounds to be developed to create an accessible community hub.

Action Porty will be holding their Annual General Meeting on Thursday 18th January at 7.30pm. All Action Porty members are welcome. For more details see [www.bellfield.scot](http://www.bellfield.scot).

## PORTY PROFILE No. 67 DANIELLE TRUDEAU

MANY Portobello residents will have come across Tribe Porty – the collaborative workspace above Earthy on Windsor Place. The brainchild of Danielle (Dani) Trudeau, this thriving hub – offering hot desks, drama classes, pilates and much, much more – has quickly become an integral part of our community.



Photo by Neil Braidwood

Born and brought up in South Dakota, Dani studied contemporary dance at North Carolina School of the Arts before going on to do a degree in dance education. After graduating, she took a job that involved working with young people with autism. The job meant coming to Scotland, so Dani found herself based in Edinburgh, but travelling extensively to visit clients from the Hebrides to Hull. “I thought I’d give it three years or so”, says Dani, “but here I am 16 years later, and although I am still a US citizen, I call this place home now”, she laughs.

In 2004 she started her own business, Interplay, still working with families affected by autism, and also moved into helping set up a social enterprise in the south of the city. It was this venture that eventually gave Dani the idea to set up Tribe Porty as a social enterprise.

She moved to Portobello in 2007, drawn by the sea. “When you live in South Dakota, it’s miles from anywhere, let alone the sea, so I love living here with my husband Bob and two children, Max and Izzy”, she says. Dani co-founded Trade School Edinburgh in 2012, and this was to be the blueprint for Tribe Porty. Essentially a classroom for the community, Trade School uses the age-old method of bartering as a way of gaining new skills.

Tribe Porty was launched with insight from an online survey in 2013. There was an overwhelming demand for family events, while music and wellness classes were also high on the agenda. More than 48 freelancers rely on the space to work from, and there is a constant stream of events happening on a daily basis, from lingerie-making classes to coffee mornings. The atmosphere is relaxed, and the decor is mostly recycled, with a natural feel. For more information visit [www.tribeporty.org](http://www.tribeporty.org)

Neil Braidwood

# ON THE BEAT

THE festive season is almost upon us and although the year to date has seen a decrease in the number of domestic housebreakings, that should be no reason for being complacent. Please remain vigilant and use timer switches, sensor lamps and robust locks. Keep tools that could be used to force windows hidden from open view in sheds. Consider buying a shed alarm.

In the fight against crime, PC Matt McPherson and I have charged male youths with regards to stealing bikes. Use good D-locks when securing your bicycle and if possible please take them inside your property. We have UV pens at the station, so call 101 or email [david.love@scotland.pnn.police.uk](mailto:david.love@scotland.pnn.police.uk) to make an appointment to come in to get your bike marked.

If you have problems in your area please feel free to come along to one of our surgeries, which are held on the last Friday of every month at Portobello Library from 1pm, and we’ll be happy to discuss them with you.

Also, please take extra care when driving in the bad weather and prepare your vehicle for the winter months. If you need any advice please contact us at Portobello station.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year!

PC David Love



Photo by Margaret Munro

On 11th October, guide dogs and their owners took part in Parading along the Prom, one of the fundraising events for Guide Dogs Week Move It For Money. Guide Dogs Scotland and Police Scotland have made a moving video about what happens when an assistance dog is attacked and injured by another dog. It is well worth watching. You can find it here <http://bit.ly/2zDeX4x>

## PORTOBELLO ARCHITECT’S GRAND DESIGN

A449 Architects, the Portobello based practice, were long listed for Channel 4’s Grand Designs House of the Year for their award-winning conversion at Edinburgh Road, Musselburgh. Matthew

Johnson said, “It was great to let two million people see how delighted our clients were, and to have our work recognised amongst the most inspirational homes in the UK is incredible.”

# NEWS IN BRIEF

**WINTER ROADS:** For information on priority road, cycle path and pavement gritting routes, and an interactive map giving locations of salt bins, go to the city council website [www.edinburgh.gov.uk](http://www.edinburgh.gov.uk) and search for winter weather.

**THE MACMILLAN** Information and Support Drop-in Service for people affected by cancer is coming to Portobello Library in December. The service is free, and trained volunteers will be on hand to offer a listening ear and help to find information on benefits, work related issues or counselling, mindfulness and more. For details call 0131 242 8046 or email: [Macmillan.libraries@edinburgh.gov.uk](mailto:Macmillan.libraries@edinburgh.gov.uk)

**A SHARED REPAIRS SERVICE,** launched this year by the city council, aims to help home owners in shared properties work together to keep them in good repair. The council can offer help and guidance if needed and, in some cases, cover the ‘missing share’ to enable works to go ahead if an owner is unable or unwilling to get involved. For details call 0131 529 6778 or see [http://bit.ly/shared\\_repairs](http://bit.ly/shared_repairs)

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The Portobello Reporter wishes a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all our Readers, Contributors and Advertisers

WE would like to begin with a big “thank you” from the library to the organisers of Portobello Book Festival for delivering another fantastic festival in October. We are proud to be one of the main venues and are already looking forward to a special tenth festival in October next year. Congratulations to all involved in its organisation.



The Scottish Owl Centre will be visiting us this winter, giving us the chance to have a look at a couple of their birds. These beautiful owls will be here on Saturday 10th February from noon to 1pm. Tickets are available from the library now and are proving really popular, so get in early to guarantee entry, as tickets are limited due to animal welfare requirements.

Copies of *Footprints in the Sand – Local History from the Portobello Reporter* are currently for sale in the library. Edited by Archie Foley and Peter E Ross, it would make an excellent Christmas present for anyone interested in Portobello’s history.

We look forward to welcoming children’s author Claire Gray, who will be visiting us for a bilingual French/English Storytime on Saturday 21st January at 10.30am. Tickets will be available from the library.

Are you between eight and 12 years old and love books and anything to do with reading? Do you know any child who would like to share their love of reading with like-minded children? Our Chatterbooks group is there for all young bookworms in Portobello. Speak to Lesley at the library if you are interested, or phone us on 0131 529 5558.

The Portobello Book Group meets on the first Monday of every month; over the winter we will be discussing the following books:

8th January: *All Made Up* by Janice Galloway

5th February: *This Boy* by Alan Johnson

5th March: *What Becomes* by AL Kennedy

All books will be available from the library. If you are interested ask staff for details.

Paul Hudson

## PORTOBELLO COMMUNITY CHOIR HITS THE HIGH NOTES



Photo courtesy of Jon Davsey Photography

**HAVE** you heard harmonies all over Portobello? Community Orchard wassails? Salty shanties serenading sea swimmers or the vocal accompaniment to Porty Market and Street Fest?

The Portobello Community Choir was founded by Jane Lewis and Chandra Mather in 2014. Jane, the song leader, says: “The choir is a secular one with a broad repertoire of songs”. There is no audition. Jane is highly skilled in outlining the health benefits of singing, which provides a melodious sound track to community events.

If you used to sing but think you have lost the confidence in your vocal ability, or if you have never sung but have wondered what it might be like, why not come along and find out? The choir meets every Wednesday from 7.15 until 9.15 in the Baptist Church Hall, Portobello High Street.

Jane is sure that you will not be disappointed, and you could even make joining The Portobello Community Choir your New Year resolution!

Nigel Archdale

## HERITAGE TRUST TO HOST WIKIPEDIA EDITATHON

ON 3rd March, Portobello Library and Portobello Heritage Trust will host a Wikipedia Editathon, giving local people an opportunity to update the online encyclopaedia entry about the history, people and places of Portobello. Wikipedia is the world’s most visited information website. The Portobello page is visited over 100 times every day.

The Editathon aims to ensure that the information about Portobello and its community is accurate and up to date. Full training will be provided for participants, including how to use the local history resources in the library.

For more information, contact Gavin Willshaw, Digital Curator, University of Edinburgh Library (and Portobello resident) at [gavin.willshaw@ed.ac.uk](mailto:gavin.willshaw@ed.ac.uk).

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**PRESENT TENSE**

**CREATING** unforgettable birthdays or Christmas for children can be a real strain, or a joy depending on the outcome. My own mother could give Mary Berry a run for her money, as she would bake amazing gingerbread house cakes with liquorice roofs and coloured sugar crystal footpaths. I've a lot to live up to, but fortunately the current birthday favourite is chocolate cake covered in Maltesers, which I can just about manage.

As for presents, my youngest son's expectations were huge, and often unachievable. Substituting a more realistic gift for the dream one was risky, especially when the whole point of a gift is to make the receiver feel special and happy. I'll never forget the look of disappointment and hours of tears when we gave him a personal DVD player, instead of what he really wanted, a full-size Segway. He did, however, pass the time on long car journeys happily watching his favourite movies. My dad would have said: "Hmm, you're very lucky to get any present at all. I was lucky to get an orange, and I had to walk to school barefoot."

Giving cash is usually a last resort, but I know when they're saving for something they are buying themselves like a laptop or iPad, that's what they really want. When their eyes light up as money falls out of their cards, I can breathe a sigh of relief. They feel like they've hit the jackpot, and I don't have to clear up a million pieces of Lego!

**AUTUMN** is the season of fruitfulness as Keats almost said. This year there has been an early crop of apples which depleted the number of varieties available for tasting at



the Apple Day held in the Donkeyfield community orchard. However, it did not stop the usual apple juice pressing and games being enjoyed by over 120 of us who came along during the afternoon. A warm convivial atmosphere was helped along by the bonfire, hot drinks and home baking. There were also copious amounts of the famous Portobello Apple juice on offer. The orchard, besides being fun, is a small demonstration of what can be achieved by growing your own food. It is difficult to be self-sufficient in fresh vegetables and fruit, but you might be surprised by the difference that can be made growing just a small amount in the garden. At home, more of our lawn has gradually been taken up for growing food, which this year includes chard, garlic, plums, cavolo nero, apples, runner beans, cherries, beetroot, kohlrabi and raspberries, with tomatoes and basil in the greenhouse. The garden isn't large, but in a small area production is increased by using raised beds.

There is still the need though to shop for other produce and, since the closure of our last greengrocer, this has meant at the supermarket. The most annoying things about this are that often you have to buy more than needed, which can contribute to wasted food, and that so much comes in plastic packaging. The disposal of the packaging, whilst not on the scale of fizzy drinks bottles, presents a problem that ultimately is not sustainable.

Now is the time to plan for next year and no matter how small an area of garden, window box or even window sill you have, you can grow something that will probably taste better. Why not give it a go?

Stephen Hawkins, PEDAL

**COMMUNITY IN ACTION**

**TWO** local care groups are celebrating significant anniversaries this year.

For 30 years Portobello Monday Centre has provided informal day care for people with mild to moderate dementia, and respite for their regular carers.

Portobello Older Peoples Project (POPP) has for 25 years offered older people, who may otherwise be

housebound, the chance to meet together on Tuesdays or Wednesdays

Both groups are part-funded by the city council. They meet in the Baptist Church Hall in Portobello High Street and are run on similar lines. Members are transported to the hall and home again, they are served a hot lunch and take part in a range of activities



**GARDEN** machinery has evolved since I started writing these articles. If you are thinking of replacing older petrol/electric machines, battery-powered ones are now relatively inexpensive and make lighter and quicker work, helping you to squeeze more gardening into the time available.

Battery-powered lawn mowers can now cut a lawn without needing to recharge. We can cut ours on one charge, as long as it's cut regularly. Battery-powered edge trimmers are also great for trimming wild flower and wild grass areas, or daffodils naturalised in lawns. Although not battery-powered, electric shredders are another asset if you prune a lot of shrubs or trees, and the shavings make mulch to put around newly-planted trees or shrubs, for making paths or adding to the compost heap. Our old shredder sounded like a jet taking off, but the new one is quiet enough for us to talk over the sound of the motor. Garden vacs are also worth having if you have a lot of leaf fall. We clear away from the lawn and from the paths, as leaves are a slip hazard, but never from the borders.

Gardening keeps body and mind in good shape, but through the winter try to change jobs as a mix of standing, kneeling, sitting or bending helps to avoid strains and sprains. Anyone who does not have a garden, but would like a few plants to brighten the winter, should think small; no house is without windows and the smallest sill can accommodate a few cacti. Be creative with containers - old egg cups for example. The secret is not to overwater; a half teaspoon once a month is all that would be needed.

Winter is the best time for hardwood cuttings. Lavatera, forsythia or other deciduous shrubs are worth trying. Cut a 100cm length, pencil thick, and strip off leaves and side shoots, then cut off the soft top 10cm of the cutting and stick it 10-15cm into a well-drained piece of ground. The cuttings will show signs of growth in spring. Do not waggle them about to test them or you'll likely kill any developing roots. Leave them alone until autumn then dig them up and plant them where you want them to grow.

and outings. Both groups depend greatly on their volunteer helpers and drivers to enable them to provide these welcome breaks for vulnerable members of the community, and new

volunteers are always welcome.

For more information contact the Monday Centre on 0131 657 4264 and POPP on 07472646262.

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# 26 BATH STREET: A COLLECTIVE SELF-BUILD



Photos by Peter E. Ross

Two flats that have used the same space in different ways. On the left the owners chose more bedrooms and smaller public space, while on the right the owner wanted a large open-plan space that takes up almost half of the flat's footprint.

**BATH** Street in Portobello has recently been embellished by an innovative new building that houses four flats, adding to the growing reputation of the area for its award-winning buildings and architects. The house at 26 Bath Street, a gap site for many years, was designed by architect John Kinsley to be a state-of-the-art ecological building that does not need a heating system because it is completely airtight, draught free and has a heat recovery system.

The contemporary design of timber and glass appears to fit seamlessly between the existing buildings and gives a coherence to the street that was previously lacking.

Passers-by watched in fascination as the giant prefabricated cross laminated timber (CLT) panels were craned into place earlier this

year. The construction of the exterior of the building took only thirteen days from delivery to topping out. Although the CLT panels were brought from the Basque country on four lorries, the carbon footprint of transporting them is, surprisingly, a fraction of the carbon embodied in the wooden structure, adding to its environmental credentials.

Unusually the project was organised and paid for by the homeowners who now occupy the house. This approach to home building, a first for Scotland, is inspired by a German collective self-build model. In Germany, regional governments are obliged to offer land exclusively to self-build collectives at competitive prices, making the land more affordable and the projects more viable. In Scotland there

is no such scheme, so the Bath Street collective, according to John Kinsley, had to "pay top dollar for the land."

The collective self-build model affords particular advantages to its members as decision-making is shared on details of the design, materials and aesthetics, and each homeowner can design the interior of their property according to their needs. The top flat has a large open-plan space, while the second-floor flat, with the same footprint, has an extra bedroom but less public space. The two flats on the ground floor have completely different footprints and different interiors to suit their owners' needs.

Dave, his partner Gica and son Micha, who have the second-floor flat, have noticed financial benefits too. "There is no middle person so we paid

absolutely what it cost to build," says Dave, "and we have done our own fit-out because we are on a tight budget. Not only that, but in the future we will have very low energy bills."

The build is now coming to completion and the owners have been landscaping the rear and front gardens. Passers-by have been stopping and talking to them as they have been spreading 10 tons of top soil. "It's been really encouraging", says Gica. "There has been a lot of goodwill and an appreciation of the aesthetics of our house."

Collective self-build may be new to Scotland, but it could offer an alternative model for housing development and new opportunities for those who are prepared to work with others to realise their dream of building their own home. Peter E Ross

## HEALTH MATTERS

**BEFORE** the widespread use of antibiotics, when people died of wound infections, there was an era of "doctor knows best". The world, and health care, has changed and is still changing. The Scot Sir Alexander Fleming discovered penicillin. Antibiotics have since saved millions of lives and, if we all use them wisely, only when we really need them, will save many more. We have also moved on from "doctor knows best".

When Scotland's Chief Medical Officer, Dr Catharine Calderwood, published her annual report *Realistic Medicine* in 2016, the World Health Organisation called it a public health revolution and there was a flurry of twitter excitement. The next report *Realising Realistic Medicine* in 2017, puts the person receiving health care at the centre of decision-making. It mentions our growing understanding of "the hidden harm from over intervention". She tells us about an initiative in the Borders to encourage patients to ask more, which includes the following questions: Is this test, treatment or procedure really needed? What are the benefits and what are the downsides? What are the possible side-effects? Are there simpler or safer options? What would happen if I did nothing? We are looking forward to hearing you ask them.

Alex Connan, GP Portobello

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## LETTERS

FOLLOWING the front-page article and police column in our Autumn Issue, about the need for all promenade users to be considerate of others, we have received the following letter:

“While the authors remind all prom users of their responsibilities, the thrust is that cyclists are the problem. My experience as a cyclist and pedestrian on the prom is more of dangers or lack of consideration to cyclists: from pedestrians seemingly not having any awareness of cyclists, such as by occupying the full width of the prom, not listening for cyclists’ bells, not keeping their dogs under control or even within sight... to...dogs suddenly bounding out into my path, on leads or not, adults scooting back from school erratically, not looking ahead; children sprinting across the prom from the beach with no warning in the dark, not hearing my shouts of warning. Please let’s all share the prom with consideration”.

Alan Cole,  
Portobello Resident

## What's On

**CHRISTMAS STREET FEST:** Late night shopping in Portobello, Thurs 7th Dec, 5-8pm, with drinks, nibbles, singing and more.

**CHRISTMAS MAKERS MARKET:** Sat 9th Dec, Noon-4pm, Tribe Porty (upstairs at Earthy), Windsor Place.

**BURNS SUPPER** for Christian Aid: Sat 20th Jan, 7pm, Portobello & Joppa Parish Church. Tickets £15, available from first week in January. For tickets and info email [office@portyjoppachurch.org](mailto:office@portyjoppachurch.org) or call 0131 657 3401.

**KICKBOXING** - Edinburgh Assassins: Portobello Town Hall. Tues & Thurs 6.15-7pm, 4-8yrs; 7-9pm, 9yrs and above. Beginners welcome. For more club info. see [www.edinburgh-assassins.co.uk](http://www.edinburgh-assassins.co.uk)

**AFTERNOON DANCING:** Ballroom, sequence, line dancing, Beach Lane Social Club. Wed/Fri 1-3.30pm, Thurs 2-4pm. £3 incl refreshments.

## AMNESTY - LOCAL NEWS

THE Group had a stall at the Village Show in September, when a petition on imposing an official UK ban on goods from the Israeli settlements (declared illegal by the UN) received 114 signatures. At our stall at the local market in October, 117 people signed cards in support of Tep Vanny, a human rights defender in Cambodia.

Eritrea, one of the world’s most repressive regimes, has for some years been the focus of Amnesty appeals for information on “disappeared” people and the release of those who may still be alive; one of our members writes monthly to government figures there. On 1st October on Portobello beach a number of our members wore masks representing a prisoner known as Davit, to draw attention to victims of human rights abuse. One of our members Cathy Crawford, now an official Amnesty trainer, described her training to a recent Amnesty Education Conference in Manchester, including that on the Brave campaign, which focusses on human rights defenders.

Group meetings are held on the second Monday of each month in Portobello and Joppa Church vestry at 7.30pm, and are open to everyone interested. For more information see our Facebook page, email [Theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com](mailto:Theresa.mcmurtry@gmail.com) or call Theresa on 0131 669 0295.

David Turner



**TRIBE** Porty is offering the following free family management workshops: 10th December, 10.30am-12.30pm - Keep your sanity. How do you set a good rhythm, create a healthy balance and live proactively whilst balancing life, clubs, bills and kids?

20th January, 10.30am-12.30pm

- Build your relationship. How do you grow your relationship with your partner while also juggling work, parenting and life?

23rd January, 7.30-9.30pm - Raise your kids. How do you grow kids to make good decisions, manage technology and take responsibility?

Sign up for the workshops on [Eventbrite](https://www.eventbrite.com) via the links at [www.tribeporty.org](http://www.tribeporty.org)

Dani Trudeau, Tribe Porty

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THE Wash House (aka Porty Community Centre) in Adelphi Grove continues to offer a cheap and accessible space for a wide range of activities and community gatherings.



Thanks to new committee member Elaine Briggs, we

now have a lovely new website where you can find out about all the current activities, including puppy training, art, zumba, fiddle and brass classes, Enjoyaball, badminton, and our fabulous youth club. The Wash House spaces are also bookable for any events or activities you want to run; pictures of all the rooms are on our website.

We hugely welcome anyone who would like to get involved in supporting the Wash House. Get in touch with us to find out more, or come along to our meetings on the second Tuesday of every month at 7pm.

For more details on all groups and activities see [www.thewashhouse.org](http://www.thewashhouse.org) or get in touch with Val Stokes, the Facilities Coordinator on 0131 669 8275 to book a space. Her working hours are Tuesday and Wednesday 8am-5pm.

Gica Loening

## NEW FRIENDS OF THE PROM GROUP ESTABLISHED

A NEW Friends of the Prom group has been established with the aim of developing the promenade as a community asset. It has had some initial meetings and plans to meet again roughly monthly in the New Year. The plans include seeking funding,

facilitating improvements to the prom, and acting as a forum for the views of local people about how the Prom can be best used. Anyone interested in getting involved can email [friendsofportyprom@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofportyprom@gmail.com).

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# PORTOBELLO HIGH SCHOOL NEWS

**PORTOBELLO** High School hosted a Remembrance Ceremony to honour the sacrifices men and women from Portobello made to make our country what it is today. Following the introduction from Head Teacher, Mrs McKay, there was an evocative modern dance and a moving performance of *In Flanders Fields*. Local minister Andy Scarcliffe spoke powerfully about sacrifice and encouraged the audience to find ways of connecting personally with stories of sacrifice, from our own community. A play, exploring the impact of war on three members of one family was performed and a film made by the S3 Media class, sharing memories from their own family histories was shown. The event concluded with a haunting rendition of the Last Post, to accompany the flags



Finlay Templeton, Andrew Dickie and Tommy Hurl performed a script exploring the impact of war on three members of one family.

being lowered by members of the British Legion. Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, giving members of the Portobello

community a moving and memorable opportunity to pay their respects to those who gave so much for others.

Rose Tully and Kirstin Fordyce

# TOWERBANK SCHOOL NEWS



**TOWERBANK** Running Club: Week number three of the running club and we have a whopping 36 runners registered this year. The children are putting in a lot of effort, especially in the cold.

Ossian, P3, has made his national TV debut as an art critic! While visiting the Ferens Art Gallery in Hull during the half term break, Ossian was interviewed by the BBC about The Turner Prize exhibition. This was shown on Sunday evening in a BBC news special *Britain's City of Culture*.

## PORTY DOES STRICTLY

Thoughts of sparkly costumes and live music flit through the minds of pupils and teachers alike as they anticipate the most popular event of the school year: **Porty Does Strictly!** Portobello High School's take on the BBC's *Strictly Come Dancing* to showcase the talents of pupil and teacher couples alike, providing fantastic entertainment for all ages.

This year we hope to host a magical night on 15th December, filled with live dance, music and glittering handmade costumes. The fact that this event is so eagerly awaited comes as no surprise: pupils, teachers and families come together, creating a wonderful sense of community.

Strictly isn't just a chance for people to come together throughout the community and celebrate their talent. It is also a thoroughly enjoyable evening, bursting with colour, shimmering costumes, impressive dance accompanied by the pupils' Jazz Band. Tickets sell out fast - and no wonder!

Issy Butt

## INCH BY INCH

**INCH** by Inch for Scotland came to Portobello High School to help encourage kids to keep active and live healthier lives. The pupils were taught how to make healthy and delicious food, and got to try it too.

'KeyStore' in association with the City of Edinburgh Council aims to combat obesity in Scotland, but without forcing kids to go on strict diets. Managing director Hannah says: "It's about raising awareness of how you can feed a family on a budget. It's not couscous or quinoa, it's using key convenience products to drive healthy lifestyles."

The Porty Pages Team at Portobello High School

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# PORTOBELLO ASC

## SWIMMING

Portobello Swimming Club's annual championships have been running over the past couple of months, with over 60 members competing in all age-groups. The races are conducted at Portobello Swim Centre and involve most of the regular swimmers. We have five age categories from nine and under up to seniors (16 and over). So far, five championships for 2017 have been decided, so congratulations to Grace Campbell (12/13), Harry MacKintosh (12/13), Louise Lock (14/15), Rory Campbell (14/15) and Megan McIntrye (16+).

The other age-groups will conclude in early December when we will also run our annual 50m sprint. In this event the heats have a staggered start, with swimmers starting the race at different times to produce some very close and exciting finishes. All winners will receive their trophies at our annual prize-giving at Duddingston Golf Club in mid-January.

## WATER POLO

Congratulations to Ben Scott, Captain, Clayton Woods, Colin Wood, James Melville, Esme McGregor and Rowan Foulner from Portobello ASC who were all selected to compete for Scotland U21 Water Polo boys and girls teams respectively, to compete in the EU Nations Water Polo Tournament at Manchester Aquatics from 17-19th November. Coach Barry Davidson and Girls Team Manager Suzy Lewis are also Portobello members.

Linda Forrester, Secretary

# ROWPORTY GO FOR A SPRINT

AROUND 300 rowers, including about 20 from Rowporty, descended on Loch Tummel Sailing Club on 28th October for the freshwater sprints, an out of the ordinary event organised by the Scottish Coastal Rowing Association. It is unusual in that it takes place on a freshwater loch.

Rowers were reminded of why an event at the end of October is held on the inland waterway as 40mph winds howled down the loch. At sea, as we usually are, the wind would have made for dicey conditions, but here we were in the most sheltered corner of a sheltered loch. The wind made for a varied course: working hard to get to

the turn, and then flying back to the finish as soon as the turn was made.

The races were held by region, with individual clubs making up a regional team. The South East came out as regional champions, much to Rowporty's delight, with last year's champions the North East coming in second, and Fife third.

The wind, in the shape of Storm Brian, also scuppered North Berwick's social row to the Bass Rock and Seacliff Beach the previous week.

If you would like more information about Rowporty or would like to get involved go to our website, Just go to [www.rowporty.org](http://www.rowporty.org).

Nick Finnis

# IN THE SADDLE



Photo by Mike Muldoon

CYCLING'S increased popularity and profile - further enhanced by Chris Froome's Tour and Vuelta victories, and Mark Beaumont's incredible new round the world record - has been rubbing off at local level. Turnout on Portovelo rides remains consistently high, allowing us to continue to support both a faster "fitness" and slower "intermediate" group.

Two highlights of late summer illustrate the range of the club's activities. At the end of August, both groups did "century rides" - one a 116-mile jaunt over the Forth Bridge and north

to Dunning before looping back through Falkland, while the intermediate group did a 100km tour of East Lothian, getting as far as Dunbar. Then, in September, we had the annual bramble-picking family ride which saw a large group of adults and children collecting fruit by the roadside on Fa'side hill.

To celebrate the year's achievements, our Christmas night out will be in the Espy on 8th December. Sunday rides continue throughout the winter, leaving from the bandstand at 9 am. Full details on [www.porto-velo.com](http://www.porto-velo.com).

Andrew Mylne

## PCFA SCOTTISH CUP PROGRESS



PORTOBELLO Community Football Academy under-13s continued their impressive run in the Scottish Cup this year with an 8-1 victory away to Glenburn Miners FC in Ayrshire. It was a long journey through for the players and families, but worth it. After a very competitive first half, Portobello ran out comfortable winners and could have increased their margin of victory. The team are now into the last 16 of the Scottish Cup and are one of only four surviving teams from the Edinburgh area. Previous rounds saw victories against Stirlingshire and Livingston, 12-1 and 14-1 respectively, so hopes are high for the next round. Come on the Porty!

John Griffith, Coach

# Gemma's Gym

WINTER has come upon us yet again, but I hope that doesn't mean you have completely hibernated. I know how tempting it can be to close the door and get cosy, but this is a time of year when you want to keep on your fitness journey, so that when summer comes you can enjoy it and not feel like you have to start all over again.

One of the best ways to keep on track is to make it social, encourage friends to join you on a walk or run outside. Not only is it safer to be with a group, but it will help keep you accountable and less likely to call off.

Fitness is meant to be enjoyable and fun, otherwise why would you keep doing it?

Being outdoors has its own challenges, but making the route include some hills will get your heart rate up. If that doesn't sound appealing, changing your pace on a flat route, e.g. using lamp posts as markers, walk one, jog one. The main point is to get your heart rate up and feel like you have achieved something more than sitting in front of the TV. Let's make this winter one to remember.

Gemma Hopewell

## WILLOWBRAE LADIES' CHARITY DAY

ON Sunday 6th July, 80 ladies from bowling clubs around Edinburgh competed for the annual Willowbrae Charity Trophy, won this year by Betty Haig (Portobello) and Harriet Munro (Willowbrae). £1000 was raised, and on 27th September, President Catherine Blows presented cheques to CHAS (Children's Hospice Across Scotland) and St Columba's Hospice.

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